



# A Birdie Told Me

Jan 22-May 11, 2016, Tempe Public Library/Youth Library

In the summer of 2015, the Gallery at Tempe Center for the Arts coordinated a wildly popular exhibition about birds called “Birds of a Feather.” Inspired by that exhibition, the Tempe Galleries program decided to pull together two of the artists from that exhibition to participate in a Youth Library show and celebrate the vast diversity and fascinating lives of birds. Although the works of artists Anne Peyton and Jake Early share a common subject matter, birds, their styles and art making processes are quite different. Peyton is a life-long bird enthusiast and painter who works to recreate a realistic portrayal of birds in nature, while Early is a graphic designer and printmaker who creates graphic poster style prints inspired by the places where he has lived.

## *Did you know?*

*According to Arizona Game and Fish Department the list of birds documented in Arizona now stands at 534 species. The southwest region and its broad range of habitats is one of the most exceptionally diverse places to view birds in the United States.*



*Hummingbird, by Jake Early*

## **Jake Early, Tempe**

Early is originally from Chico, CA. He studied art at the School of Fine Arts in Seville, Spain and graduated with a degree in graphic design from California State University in Chico. He has been a working artist, illustrator, graphic designer and printmaker for the past 22 years. Early moved to Tempe in 2007 and has been creating large scale public art pieces for cities including Scottsdale and Mesa. He is currently working on a 300 foot mural in Tempe near Daley Park. Each of the serigraph prints in this exhibition were created by hand on a printing press he designed and built himself.

*“A constant theme in my work is a strong sense of place. I believe strongly in art and its ability to communicate ideas, transform public spaces and celebrate what is unique about local places and people. I hope to communicate what is familiar and unfamiliar about the places we live in and pass through every day and I want to display my images in a wide range of scale and in front of a large, diverse audience. My goal is to honor local community spaces, landmarks, native plant and animal life and community pastimes.”*

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*Morning Stretch, by Anne Peyton*

## **Anne Peyton, Phoenix**

For more than twenty years, Peyton was one of the most sought after motorsports artists. But later, her lifelong love of nature brought her back to the thing she enjoyed: painting birds. Today, she and her husband spend countless hours viewing birds around Arizona and the Southwest. Peyton participates on an ongoing basis in several wildlife art exhibitions as well as dedicates several volunteer hours each month to Liberty Wildlife, a Scottsdale-based rehabilitation and education organization that treats injured animals. Her specialty is assisting hawks and owls to become accustomed to people for educational and group settings.

*“I have always been fascinated by birds. As I small child, I spent countless hours drawing ducks swimming on the ponds close to my home in Fort Collins, CO. Observing birds and their habits is a way to discover more about their nature. Each of these actions means something for the bird and it is these actions and their meanings that I want to convey to the viewer. I enjoy the challenge of painting birds in detail, and as such, many of my subjects are isolated from their habitats. While*

*the locations of the birds are certainly important, my personal challenge comes from trying to not only capture the likeness of each animal, but to try to bring life to each bird as well.”*

[www.annepeytonart.com](http://www.annepeytonart.com)